

**JOHN F. KENNEDY ASSASSINATION
UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE REPORTS**

Secret Service Agent

Gerrets Report Jan 17, 1964 Re Oswald in New Orleans 1963

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UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE
TREASURY DEPARTMENT

ORIGIN **Field** OFFICE **New Orleans** FILE NO. **60-2-34,030**

TYPE OF CASE Protective Research	STATUS Closed - New Orleans	TITLE OR CAPTION Lee Harvey Oswald
INVESTIGATION MADE AT New Orleans, La. Jan. 8 - 14, 1964		PERIOD COVERED Assassination of President John F. Kennedy
INVESTIGATION MADE BY Special Agent Anthony E. Gerrets Special Agent in Charge John W. Rice		
DETAILS		

SYNOPSIS

Additional investigation conducted at New Orleans concerning Lee Harvey Oswald at request of Chief's office in an effort to learn more about his activities, earnings, etc., while he was in New Orleans during the period commencing approximately 4-26-63 to approximately 9-24-63.

DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

Reference is made to previous reports submitted by this office in the above-captioned case, particularly report dated 1-3-64 submitted by SAIC John W. Rice.

On 1-8-64 telephone call was received by SAIC Rice from Inspector Thomas J. Kelley, who requested that Mr. and Mrs. Jesse J. Garner, of 4911 Magazine St., New Orleans, be again interviewed in depth to determine the total rent paid by Oswald while he was residing at 4907 Magazine St., and all available information as to his activities, including visitors, and time spent at and away from residence, etc. It was also requested that we determine the income available to him during his stay in New Orleans, and that we obtain copy of the steamship company manifest listing Oswald as a passenger on the S/S "MARION LYKES" on the voyage from New Orleans to La Havre, France, in September-October 1959.

As will be noted in our office memorandum of 12-3-63,

DISTRIBUTION Chief ✓ Dallas New Orleans	COPIES Original & 2 cc's 2 cc's 2 cc's	REPORT MADE BY <i>Anthony E. Gerrets</i> SPECIAL AGENT	DATE 1-17-64
	APPROVED <i>John W. Rice</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		DATE 1-17-64

addressed to SAIC Corroles, Dallas, copy of which was furnished Chief's office. Oswald was employed by Wm. B. Beilly & Co., 640 Magazine St., New Orleans, distributors of "Lusianne Coffee", from May 10, 1963 to July 19, 1963. During this period he earned a total of \$48.41. The information relative to inclusive dates of employment and total earnings was obtained from ASAC Joseph Sylvester, Federal Bureau of Investigation, New Orleans, on 12-3-63, inasmuch as all records pertaining to such employment had been turned over to that office by the employer. In a telephone conversation with Mr. A. L. Frechter, Personnel Manager, Wm. B. Beilly & Company on 1-16-64 reporting agent was informed that Oswald had been "fired" for not doing his job properly and not being available when needed. Mr. Frechter stated that there were numerous occasions when Oswald would be needed to do a certain job and he could not be located by his supervisor. He said there would be times when Oswald would be gone for periods of an hour or longer and when questioned he could not furnish a plausible explanation as to where he had been during these periods of absenteeism from his job. Mr. Frechter stated in reply to questioning that they had never been able to determine whether Oswald would leave the plant on such occasions or whether he was in some remote sections of the plant. Mr. Frechter also stated that Oswald would not "communicate" with his co-workers, indicating that he held himself aloof from those around him.

Investigation by this office and the FBI failed to disclose any other employments in New Orleans during the time Oswald was residing here from approximately 4-26-63 to approximately 9-24-63.

On 1-10-64 Mr. Paul T. Greene, Customs Agent in Charge, New Orleans, furnished this office for review the outward manifest of the American Steamship "MARION LYKES", a freighter owned by Lykes Bros. Steamship Company, which departed New Orleans on September 19, 1959, carrying four passengers, including "Mr. Lee H. Oswald", and 43 seamen, Voyage No. 110. The itinerary was furnished as follows: LaPallice/Bordeaux/St. Nazaire/LeHavre/Dunkirk, France/Rotterdam, Holland/Antwerp, Belgium/Bremen/Bremerhaven, Germany, with cargo to be discharged at Le Havre, France.

The Passenger Revenue Manifest - Voyage Report of Passengers, copies of which were obtained, listed Mr. Lee H. Oswald, male, age 19, U. S. citizen, permanent address Fort Worth, Texas, Passport No. 1733242, port of embarkation - New Orleans, port of debarkation - Le Havre, France, Ticket No. 6762. The other three passengers were listed as: Mr. Billy J. Lord, age 18, U. S. citizen, permanent address Midland, Texas, Passport No. 1607221, port of debarkation Le Havre, France; Mr. George B. Church, male, age 47, U. S. citizen, permanent address Tampa, Florida, Passport No. 1605283, Ticket No. 6761, and Mrs. Beauford T. Church, female, age 42, U. S. citizen, permanent address Tampa, Florida, Passport No. 1605283, Ticket No. 6761. (The number of Billy J. Lord's ticket was 6759).

While the official sailing date of the S/S "NATION LINES" from New Orleans was September 19, 1959, the actual departure date was September 20, 1959. According to information previously received from the FBI, New Orleans office, the ship arrived at La Havre, France, on October 8, 1959. This has not been verified through inquiry of the Lykes Bros. Steamship Co., Inc., but will be done if deemed necessary.

On the evening of 1-10-64 SAIC Rice and reporting agent re-interviewed Mr. and Mrs. Josse J. Garner, 4911 Magazine St., New Orleans, managers of several apartments located at 4905 and 4907 Magazine St.

Mr. and Mrs. Garner stated that Lee Harvey Oswald paid a monthly rent of \$65.00 on the furnished apartment which he and his wife had rented at 4907 Magazine St.; that utilities were not included in the rent and that the Oswalds were responsible for payment of the utility bills. They stated that Oswald paid a total of four months rent, totaling \$260.00; that his rent was up on 9-9-63 but Oswald stayed on in the apartment until 9-24-63 but did not pay any additional rent after 9-9-63. He, therefore, left owing about 15 days rent on his apartment. Mr. Garner stated that Oswald always paid his rent in cash and that he was usually tardy in paying his rent. He said that on one occasion Oswald told him he was expecting some money in a couple of days and would pay his rent then, not mentioning the source from which he expected to receive the money.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Garner stated that Oswald was anti-social and had very little to say to anyone; that he maintained an arrogant attitude toward everyone with whom he came in contact. They stated that Mrs. Oswald never had anything to say, apparently for the reason that she could speak only Russian; that she appeared friendly enough and would smile and let them know that she was aware of their presence but would never speak.

Mr. and Mrs. Garner stated that Oswald did not appear to be employed about one-half the time during which he occupied the apartment at 4907 Magazine St. or for about the last two months he was there.

Mr. Garner reiterated that on one occasion Oswald had displayed two signs on the screened porch adjacent to his apartment; that upon noticing the signs, which were pro-Castro, he ordered Oswald to take the signs down, whereupon Oswald wanted to know who "rejected" to the signs. Mr. Garner said he informed Oswald that he objected to the signs and that he would have to take them down or move out of the apartment.

In reply to our inquiry, Mr. and Mrs. Garner stated that Oswald was frequently in and out of his apartment; that he would leave but not be gone for very long periods of time. They said that he would use the buses for transportation about the city. They advised that the Oswalds left their apartment in a filthy condition, Mrs. Garner adding that she had to discard the mattress which they had used in their apartment because of the condition in which they had left it. Mr. Garner stated that after the Oswalds had moved he discovered that the apartment stove and electric refrigerator had been damaged during their stay, the hinges on the freezer door being broken on the refrigerator and the handles on the stove being broken off.

The Garners repeated information previously furnished by them to the effect that Oswald kept to himself and read quite a lot. They said, in reply to questioning, that they had never observed Oswald carrying any package which could have contained a rifle.

Mr. Garner stated that Oswald and his wife had been observed by him on at least two occasions in a nearby super market buying fairly good supplies of groceries. Mrs. Garner stated that the Oswalds had no telephone in their apartment but that Oswald at no time made any attempt to use the Garners' telephone.

Mrs. Garner stated that an FBI Agent, name believed to be Milton Kooch or Koach, was investigating Oswald during the time he lived at 4907 Magazine St.; that he had interviewed her about four or five times about Oswald. She said this FBI Agent had called on her the day after Oswald had moved; that he had never indicated in any way why he was checking on Oswald but that she came to believe that Oswald might have been suspected of being a Communist, especially after he had displayed pro-Castro circulars on the porch of his apartment.

During the interview with Mr. and Mrs. Garner they stated that during the time they knew Oswald as a tenant he gave no indication that he may have been violent.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Garner stated that Mrs. Oswald seldom left her apartment and that when she did she would go only to a small neighborhood grocery.

Questioned as to any visitors which the Oswalds may have had while occupying the apartment at 4907 Magazine St., Mrs. Garner stated that they had very, very few visitors. She reiterated information furnished during a previous interview and as mentioned on Page Three of my report of 12-4-63 that she recalled one occasion when a young man came to her residence one evening and inquired for directions to Oswald's apartment. She stated that this young man appeared to

be the Latin type; that he spoke with a Spanish accent and that he had in his hand a number of pro-Castro circulars of the type which Oswald had displayed on his porch. (The individual referred to may have been Carlos Guirago, mentioned on Page 1A of SA Viola's report of 12-3-63). (Cont'd p. 4-1)

As mentioned on Page Four of my report of 12-4-63, when contacted on 12-2-63 Mrs. Garner stated that she recalled that Oswald had been visited on about three occasions, always late in the evening or about dark, by a middle aged, grey haired man who was rather thin; not very tall; had a receding hair line; very fair complexion; neat dresser. She stated that, as previously reported, on one occasion this man was accompanied by a woman, whom she could not describe. She said the man referred to always arrived in the same car; that it definitely was not a station wagon; that it appeared to be a heavy car and it was her recollection that it was light blue in color; further that on one occasion the Oswalds and their baby had gotten into this car and driven away with the unknown middle aged man, this being on a Saturday. The license number of this car was not observed by Mrs. Garner.

At 4903 Magazine St., New Orleans, on the night of 1-10-64 SAIC Rice and I interviewed Mr. and Mrs. Alexander P. Eames III, next door neighbors to the Oswalds during the time the latter couple occupied a small apartment at 4907 Magazine St. In reply to questioning, Mr. and Mrs. Eames stated that they had never observed Oswald carrying any kind of package which may have contained a rifle.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Eames stated that a woman in a 2-tone blue station wagon had visited the Oswalds on two different occasions, several months apart. They stated that the woman had brought Mrs. Oswald and her small daughter to the apartment at 4907 Magazine St. and that several months later she returned and picked up Mrs. Oswald and her child. It was their recollection that the woman had spent two or three days with the Oswalds on both visits; that the woman had two small daughters with her. They stated that Oswald remained at 4907 Magazine St. for several days after his wife and child left with the woman in the station wagon. They stated that Mrs. Oswald and her child left about mid-day; that Oswald must have left at night as they did not see him when he left.

Mr. and Mrs. Eames stated that Oswald would not talk with any of the neighbors and kept to himself. Mr. Eames stated that he was sitting on his front porch one evening shortly after the Oswalds had moved into the apartment next door; that while he was on the porch Mr. and Mrs. Oswald passed on the sidewalk; that he bid Oswald the time of day but that Oswald looked straight ahead

and did not speak. Both Mr. and Mrs. Eames stated that Oswald spent much time in reading; that he was frequently observed sitting on his screened porch reading and on other occasions they could see him seated in his living room reading. (Mrs. Garner, of 4911 Magazine St., had previously stated to reporting agent that Oswald had placed a lamp on his screened porch and that he would use the lamp when reading on his porch at night).

Mr. and Mrs. Eames stated that Oswald had very few visitors; that they recalled one occasion when a representative of WDSU radio station visited Oswald at his apartment. This was about the time that Oswald had a radio debate with Carlos Bringuier, an anti-Castro Cuban refugee, over this radio station.

The Eames couple stated that while they were sitting on their front porch one Sunday evening they observed a middle aged man and woman bringing the Oswald couple and their child home in a car. They stated that judging from appearances it seemed as if the Oswalds had spent the night with this couple; that they had several zipper type overnight bags with them. They also stated that they had observed no activity in the Oswald apartment the previous night, giving rise to the belief that the Oswalds had spent the night away from their apartment.

Mr. and Mrs. Eames stated that on occasion the Oswalds would shop at a Winn Dixie store (super market) located at 4901 Prytania St., several blocks from their apartment. They stated that Oswald was in and out of his apartment during the day but was usually at home at night. They stated that when he left his apartment he usually boarded a bus at the corner from his apartment, which would take him to the downtown business area.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Eames stated that Oswald always spoke in a foreign language, possibly Russian; that at times the Oswalds appeared to be arguing in a foreign language, which they could not understand. They had never heard Mrs. Oswald speaking in English.

On 1-14-64 SAIC Rice and I interviewed Mr. Eric Rogers, who occupies the small front apartment at 4907 Magazine St., New Orleans. Mr. Rogers stated that he and his wife had moved to this apartment about June or July 1963 and that the Oswald couple were occupying an apartment at this same address when they moved in. Mr. Rogers stated that Oswald had several visitors at various intervals, one of whom appeared to be an American; that the others appeared to be foreigners and were the Latin type.

Mr. Rogers stated that he had never had any conversations with Oswald, who would speak to no one and kept to himself. He said that Oswald read a lot and that he was a neat dresser. Mr. Rogers stated that he understood that Oswald had left owing the New Orleans Public Service, Inc., for utilities.

Oswald
In reply to questioning, Mr. Rogers stated that Oswald frequently leave his apartment during the day but that as a rule he would not be gone for very long. On such occasions, he would use buses as a means of transportation.

Mr. Rogers stated that he was at home on the occasion when Mrs. Oswald and her child left in a light brown Ford or Chevrolet station wagon with a man and woman. He said the man was about in his 40's and was short and stocky. In reply to questioning, Mr. Rogers stated that he is certain there was a man present on this occasion. He said that Oswald left about 7:00 PM on the day after his wife's departure; that Oswald had two pieces of luggage (large traveling bags) with him when he left; that Oswald was in a hurry and ran to catch a bus at the corner of Magazine and Upperline Sts., almost directly across the street from his apartment. This bus would have been proceeding from the uptown section of New Orleans to the downtown business section of the city.

Mr. Rogers stated that Oswald always talked with his wife in Russian or some foreign language; that he had never seen Oswald with any package which may have contained a rifle. He mentioned the fact that Oswald had on one occasion put up some pro-Castro pamphlets or circulars on the screened porch adjoining his apartment. He said that on occasions Oswald displayed a bad temper and appeared to be abusive toward his wife, judging from the manner in which he would speak to her. He said that Mrs. Oswald seldom left her apartment.

No information was received from any of the above-mentioned individuals which would indicate that meetings had been held at the Oswald apartment at 4907 Magazine Street.

DISPOSITION

This case will be considered closed at New Orleans, unless we are advised that additional information is desired.

ATTACHMENTS

Chief - Two copies of Lykes Bros. S/S Company Passenger Manifest
S/S "MARION LYKES" - Voyage No. 110

Dallas - One copy of Lykes Bros. S/S Company Passenger Manifest
S/S "MARION LYKES" - Voyage No. 110

P.9. With reference to the income available to Oswald during his stay in New Orleans in 1963, apparently Oswald received unemployment compensation from the State of Texas during the time he was in New Orleans. The amount involved is not known to this office, but it is assumed that this information was obtained by the Dallas office. (See Page 18 of SA Vial's report of 12-3-63).

As indicated in report dated 12-9-63 by SAIC Rice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation caused a thorough search to be made at Western Union, New Orleans, but failed to locate any record of money orders having been received by Oswald from any source.